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FEB 06 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 is cancelled, claims 8 and 9 are added and claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 are amended as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) The internal combustion engine of claim 1 claim 3, wherein said essentially closed position is a block position for starting said engine and the less throttling position is an open position when the engine has run up.

3. (Currently Amended) The engine of claim 1, wherein An internal combustion engine including a two-stroke engine and said internal combustion engine comprising:

an intake channel to which an air/fuel mixture is supplied in a flow direction;

a carburetor for preparing said air/fuel mixture;

a starting device configured in the region of said carburetor to enrich said air/fuel mixture during a starting operation of said engine;

10 a bypass channel having a first end branching off upstream of said starting device viewed in said flow direction and having

a second end opening downstream of said starting device;
a switching valve mounted in said bypass channel and being
movable from a position wherein said switching valve is
15 essentially closed for starting said engine and, when said engine
runs up, said switching valve being movable automatically into a
less throttling position; and,

said switching valve [[is]] being actuated by the
compression pressure in the combustion chamber of said engine.

4. (Original) The engine of claim 3, wherein said engine includes a decompression valve and said switching valve has a valve member actuated by said decompression valve.

5. (Original) The engine of claim 4, wherein said decompression valve has a housing and said valve member is integrated into said housing.

6. (Currently Amended) The engine of ~~claim 1~~ claim 3, wherein said carburetor has a venturi section and said starting device is a choke flap mounted upstream of said venturi section.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The engine of claim 1, wherein An~~
internal combustion engine including a two-stroke engine and said
internal combustion engine comprising:

5 an intake channel to which an air/fuel mixture is supplied
in a flow direction;
a carburetor for preparing said air/fuel mixture;
a starting device configured in the region of said

carburetor to enrich said air/fuel mixture during a starting operation of said engine;

10 a bypass channel having a first end branching off upstream of said starting device viewed in said flow direction and having a second end opening downstream of said starting device;

15 a switching valve mounted in said bypass channel and being movable from a position wherein said switching valve is essentially closed for starting said engine and, when said engine runs up, said switching valve being movable automatically into a less throttling position; and,

20 said carburetor defines defining a main carburetor path and said starting device [[is]] being an ancillary carburetor configured parallel to said main carburetor path.

8. (New) The internal combustion engine of claim 7, wherein said essentially closed position is a block position for starting said engine and the less throttling position is an open position when the engine has run up.

9. (New) The internal combustion engine of claim 7, wherein said carburetor has a venturi section and said starting device is a choke flap mounted upstream of said venturi section.